

Official News-Letter of the Founder Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps  
Camp Miniwanca, Stony Lake, Michigan  
THE AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri

APRIL

1939

Happy Easter to you all!

#### HELLO EVERYBODY!

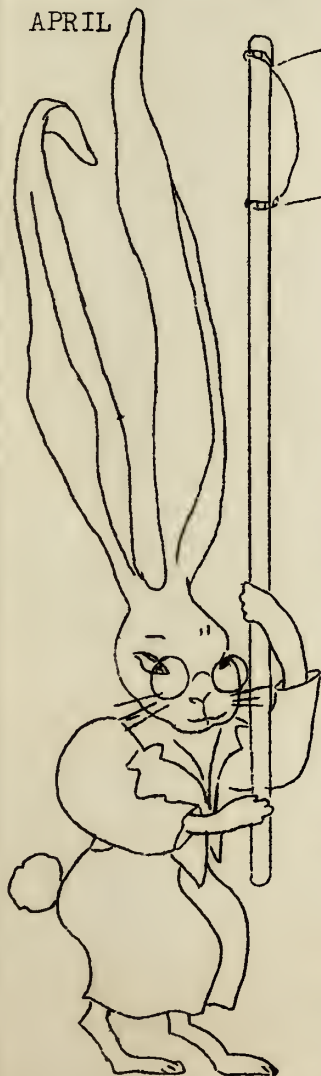
This number of The Trail will reach you just around Easter time, although the copy is being written on a beautiful sunshiny Saturday morning in February. It hardly seems possible that another year has swung around and that we are just a little bit more than two months off from camp days - Stony Lake, Miniwanca sand dunes, Lake Michigan and all the rest. But the months will come and go quickly, and I know none of us will be sorry when the good old summer-time comes again.


#### WE ARE GETTING ALL SET FOR A BIG SEASON

and advance registrations are well ahead of last year at this same time. There seems to be more interest than ever in Camp Miniwanca. We are looking forward to a full camp. This will mean from 120 to 125 boys, all told. As nearly as possible, we will divide them as follows:

Pre-Seniors ----	40 boys
Doers -----	55 boys
Darers -----	30 boys

Already more than half the places are taken in some of the units. If you have not yet sent in your registration, plan to do so real soon so that you will be sure of a place.





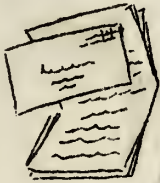
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## DIRECTOR HOWIE SWINGS INTO ACTION

And how! A few days ago a great big five-page typewritten letter from Howie Jones was dropped ker-plop on my desk, and when I opened and read it I found it just bristling brimful of plans, ideas and "umpf". All the old campers last year declared that the 1938 YB Camp was one of the very best we have ever had. Howie, in his first year as Director, fitted in like a veteran and in no time at all had his hands on all of the details of camp life. With that fine season of experience back of him, Howie is chock full of ideas and plans for making the 1939 camp a big improvement over the 1938 edition.

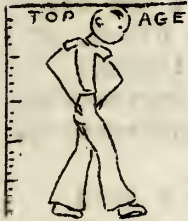


As I read Howie's letter, I found myself caught up by his enthusiasum. In fact, I'm beginning to tingle all over with eagerness and anticipation as I look forward to greeting the fine bunch of campers and leaders who will make up the 1939 YB and Pre-Senior Camps.

I know that some of the Pre-Senior fellows are hoping that Howie's right wing will fade out a bit this year so that he can't bear down on them so heavily in that annual baseball game. However, the Pre-Seniors im-  
prove too, and there is just a fine chance that the leaders will have to bite the dust this coming Fourth of July. And that holds for the Doers, too!



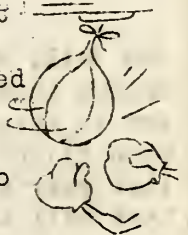
## WE ARE CONSIDERING A SPECIAL GROUPING



in the YB Camp this coming summer. As the Pre-Senior fellows push up against the top age limit of the Pre-Senior Camp, many of them looking forward to going to college next year, the question is being asked, "What plans do you have for these older fellows in the Pre-Senior Camp?" This year we are considering a special division in the Pre-Senior Camp for those who are up against the top age limit. They will have a relationship to the Pre-Senior Camp, but also an active connection with the leadership and the staff of the entire camp. Throughout the entire period of the camp they will be given special leadership assignments, and thus get in line for full-time leadership in the Younger Boys Camp within the next year or two. This special division will be limited to the seventeen and eighteen-year-old Pre-Senior fellows. It will interest you to know that a number of fellows, including Carter Allen and Kenny Wells, have already requested definitely to be in on this new plan, and will come on a "camper-leader" basis this summer.

## MANY THINGS ARE BEING DONE

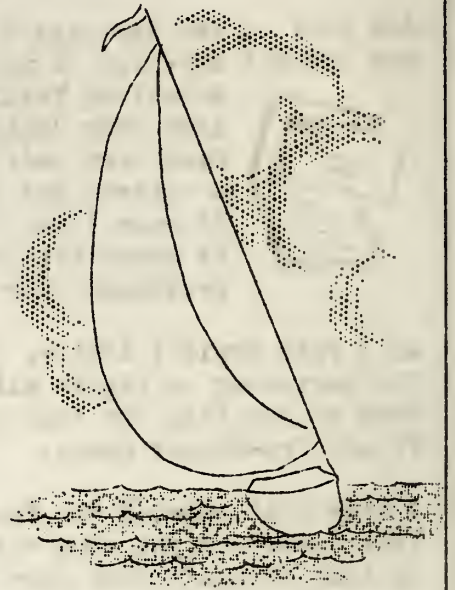
at Camp Miniwanca in preparation for the coming camping season. A lot of attractions will be added to this year's camp. For instance, there will be a couple of punching bags rigged up at convenient places so that campers who are so inclined may try to do a little expert bag-punching. A bunch of small game tables are being built, and these will be scattered around over the rustic porch of the club-house so that fellows can sit down to a quiet game of checkers, chess, "battleship", Chinese checkers or another of the many quiet but interesting games which fellows like to enjoy in moments of relaxation.





### DOWN ON THE WATERFRONT

we will see quite a few changes. First of all, we are planning to build another dock. I can hear some of you say, "What - another dock? We already have two!" And that's right, we do have two docks, but we are going to build a third which will be reserved strictly for sailboat use. In all probability the new dock will be placed north of the present ones, just beyond the diving tower. It is quite likely also that the sailboats will be anchored there this summer. This arrangement will make it possible for the swimming and general aquatic program to go on without being disturbed by the maneuvers of the fleet. (Ahem!) And at the same time the reverse will be true. The fleet can maneuver without being handicapped by the activities of the swimmers and life-savers.



### AND THAT NEW DIVING TOWER

is sure going to be built if we can scheme out a way to hold the concrete base on that sloping sand bottom. That is going to be quite a trick. We have been figuring on it, and think now we know how to do it. And, of course, being somewhat of a daring disposition, I just cannot refrain from trying it out. It will mean a jutting in of a lot of heavy piles, all bunched together, perhaps twelve or eighteen inches apart. Then we will build a form around those piles and get the big concrete mixer down there and just fill that form full of cement. The piles, of course, will serve as the anchor to keep the big slab of cement from slipping down into the bottom of the lake. It looks like a pretty good bit of engineering and I believe it will work, so keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

Now let's look at that new diving tower for a moment. We plan to have a good solid concrete base on which we will build a steel or pipe superstructure. The spring-boards will be secured from one of the large aquatic equipment manufacturing companies, and will be strictly standard and erected according to the proper specifications for competitive diving.

### ON THE TOP LEVEL OF THE DIVING TOWER

will be a little compartment with a single seat for the Aquatic Director or whoever is assigned to supervise the waterfront for a particular period. We certainly are hoping that nothing is going to interfere with the working out of these plans, for it is quite certain that this new equipment will add greatly to the efficiency of our already-very-fine waterfront.

### WHILE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE WATERFRONT

Jim Bell, who will be Aquatic Director of the Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps, writes that he is rarin' to go and will be all set for a big and successful season in this important department of camp life. And by the way, Jim, an order has been placed for one of those new torpedo Red Cross Buoys which was demonstrated last year at the camp by the visiting representative of the American Red Cross. That will be a fine addition to our safety plans on the waterfront.



### THE COMMODORE OF THE FLEET

Captain or Admiral, or whatever you want to call him, will again be Jim "Squid" Orwig. Jim plans to get to camp bright and early so as to get all the boats in fine shape for the opening day of camp. We want to see more regattas this year, and more fellows learning to sail a boat. So come on, you old salts, and get yourselves all set for a big sailing season on old Stony!

### THE HEAD OF THE CRAFT DEPARTMENT,



George Bramhall, is working out some mighty fine plans for the Miniwanca crafters. Architect Ken Schaefer is required to do some practice work with an architect in his course at Washington University, so we will miss Ken for the forepart of the season. We are hoping that he can close out that job before YB winds up entirely, so that he may at least look in and say



"Howdy" to the bunch. George was Ken's right-hand man last year and everybody remembers the fine work he has done in the Craft Department during the last few summers. We particularly want to specialize in original craft projects during the 1939 Camp, making windmills, little power boats and many other things that are new and original and attractive.

### DOWN IN CEDAR SAND THEATRE

this summer we will again witness some of the very fine plays produced by the Miniwanca Players Guild. We all remember their productions of last year and are looking forward to more like them. The new stage settings made Cedar Sand Theatre look like a different place, and the players certainly put on some good shows. Barney Blakemore will again have charge of the Fine Arts Department and he promises to make this a most entertaining season.

### AND SPEAKING OF BARNEY

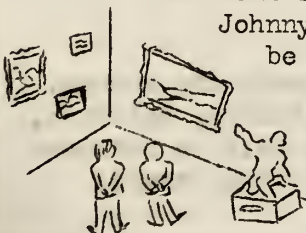
you have probably known that he has been abroad ever since last August. You recall he left at the close of YB last summer and sailed for Europe where he has been knocking about and studying and having a grand and glorious time. Barney is right now in Italy, or perhaps by the time you get this message he will be in Berlin. What a fund of stories and travel pictures he will have to share with us when he gets back! Barney writes that he is going to catch the boat that will land him in New York several weeks before the opening date of camp so that he can be on the grounds to work out plans and get ready for the big season.



### WE JUST CAN'T PASS ALONG

without saying a bit more about Barney and our other Founder leader, Johnny Raach, who is also in Europe. We are hoping that Johnny will be back in camp with us this summer, too.

These two Miniwanca leaders get together a lot, and often go on expeditions to points of interest. Barney has been entertaining us with many amusing stories of their travels.

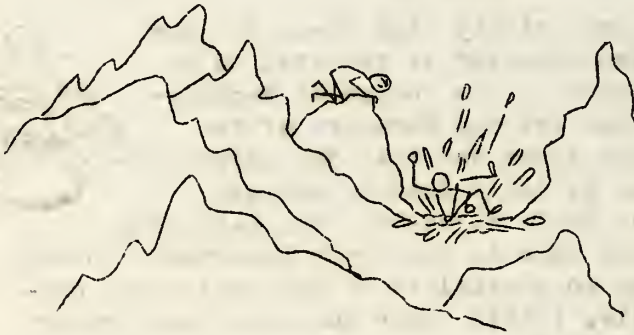




### ON ONE OCCASION

they took a bicycle trip, and Barney's description of pushing that wheel up and down the hills of merry England is certainly a gem! Incidentally, they got caught in a terrific rain storm, with only one extra pair of trousers between them. So while Johnny wore the extra pair, Barney stayed in bed and hung his up to dry. Then they reversed the procedure and gave Barney a chance to fare forth a bit in the extra trousers while Johnny took to bed.

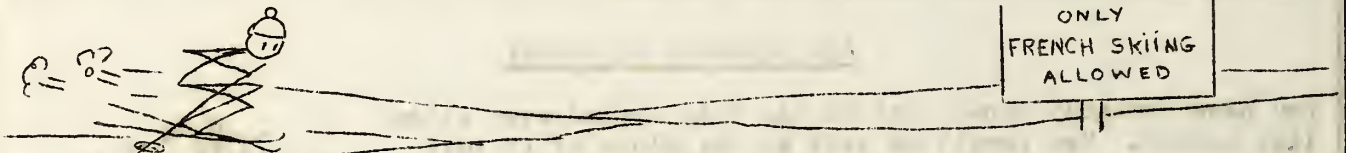
### ANOTHER TIME



Barney tells of a little mountain-climbing trip, during which they were trying to be very cautious, stepping daintily and gingerly across a boggy place, when Barney slipped on a log and went ker-plop right into the gumbo! Again they had only one extra pair of trousers, and you can imagine the fun they had scraping the mud from Barney's clothes!

### OVER IN THE LAND OF YODLERS AND SWISS CHEESE

John Parker Compton is going to school this year. He writes: "Right now I'm over 3000 miles from the States at a school in Switzerland. At first I felt plenty far away, but now I like the school a lot. It's against all rules to speak any other language except French, and if they catch you speaking English you get the bawling out of your life, plus two hours of writing French verbs. There are beautiful mountains all around us, and we ski until the end of March. If I get home in time for camp, I hope to see you all back again."



### THE FOUR-WAY LODGE

will be the center of a concerted attack this summer by the skilled artisans in the Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps. The plan is to transform the ceiling of the Four-Way Lodge into somewhat of a planetarium effect. The background will be blue, and against it will be painted the stars, planets, constellations and all kinds of heavenly bodies, so that we can look up overhead and imagine we are right out under the stars, even though we are indoors in our snug Four-Way Lodge. It is hoped that the artists of the camp will come prepared to submit some of their best ideas to the committee in charge so that this work can be gotten under way shortly after the opening of camp.

### DIETITIAN IN CHARGE OF MINIWANCA MEALS!

We have arranged to have a professional dietitian in camp throughout the summer, and all meals will be prepared under her direction. Balance, vitamins, calories, variation, and all those things that have to do with good eating will be foremost in our food plans. So come prepared for the usual good eats, and then some!



### PRIMITIVE POTTERY-MAKING THIS YEAR

Yessir, that's right, we are going back to first things. It is planned to abandon the big pottery kiln and substitute primitive methods of burning pottery, as done by the Indians. A study of these methods is being made by various loaders, and particularly by Phil Tefft, who is making ceramics his life work. And so, we are looking forward to a lot of fun this year in pottery. If we can do our pottery-making and firing right in the Boys Camp so that we won't have to take time going across the trail to the old pottery center, it is expected that many more fellows will participate in this very interesting phase of our craft work.

### INTERESTING PLANS FOR THE IDEALS DEPARTMENT

A lot of thought is being given to this department of Camp Miniwanca. Old campers will be interested to know that a course of Balanced Fourfold Living will be introduced in the Doers and Per-Senior Units. This will be an exceedingly fine course and will be approached chiefly from a biographical standpoint. It is also planned to continue and develop the Pre-Senior course on Leadership Principles.

Many Miniwanca campers have expressed their great satisfaction at being given the opportunity to take a half hour each day for informal discussion of some of the important things which pertain to the skill of living. Miniwanca-trained folks are giving a good account of themselves throughout the entire world.

Those interesting things about every-day living which we learn at camp certainly help us tremendously to get balance in our lives. Just recently a letter came from one of our Miniwanca Younger Boy campers who is now in college, expressing his great appreciation for the splendid background of training he received in YB. And that's what we stand for at Miniwanca - the development of clean-cut, upstanding Founder fellows who will help keep America Christian and democratic.

### THE CAMP SPIRIT

as we all know, is buried somewhere in the dunes on the camp grounds and next June, on the opening night of camp, His Majesty will be unearthed and brought to life again so that his happy influence may be well spread throughout the entire camp. We all remember what we did last year on the opening night with Old Man Grouch. In a very effective manner he was put under cover and didn't show his face again during the whole season. That is as it should be, and I'll just bet that Old Man Grouch again will get all that is coming to him, while the Camp Spirit rules and reigns on the throne and in the hearts of all Miniwanca campers and leaders.



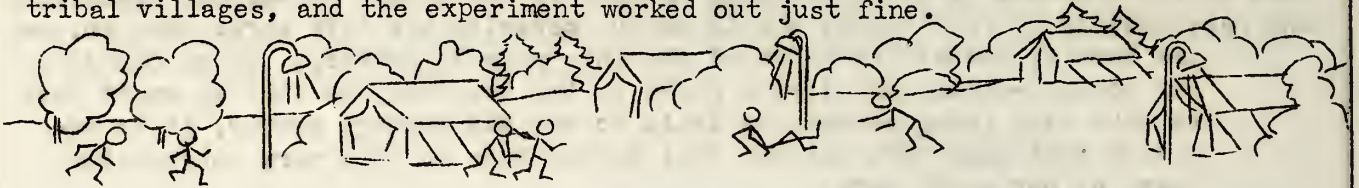
### NEW LIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR YB

Yessir, we are going to have a very pleasant surprise awaiting you when you come back this summer. The old kerosene lamps are going to disappear from the tents. Parents and campers will be glad to hear this, because they were a real fire hazard. We have been getting along beautifully with them in the past, however, and were fortunate that no accidents ever occurred through their use.



### NO, DON'T GET WORRIED

we're not going to put electric lights in the tents! But we are going to do something far better than that. Last summer in the Younger Girls Camp we experimented with some high-power electric lights which were placed at strategic points in the tribal villages, and the experiment worked out just fine.



When the Older Girls and Fellows came to camp later on, they all declared that there had never been so much fellowship among the campers at night, just before the lights-out bell, as there was last summer. The reason for this was that just as soon as the nights-don'ts bell had rung, the entire tent area was flooded with light so that everything looked almost like it does in daylight. The lights all streamed into the tents and brightened things up so that a fellow could get out and move around, perhaps to bring in his bathing suit, tighten up a tent rope, go to the biffy, get a drink of water or what have you, without barking all the skin off his shins, or tumbling over a fallen log!

This lighting plan worked so well in the Michigan Unit that we are going to try it out this year in the Boys Camp, and I have a feeling it is going to be a very popular improvement. When lights-out bell rings, bang goes the switch and the entire camp is plunged into darkness. Then the good-night hymn and taps, and the usual good night of sleep.

### CAMP DATES - DON'T FORGET THEM!

The Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Camps swing into action on Monday, June 19, and wind up on Sunday, July 30. This will give Miniwanca campers a chance to have their usual camping experience and still leave a full month to fit in with other family plans such as a trip East, West, North or South. This is one thing that so many Miniwanca families like about the Founder Camps. A boy can have his full camping period and then join the rest of the family for a reunion or vacation, or for other things that he might want to do over the remaining weeks of the summer.

Talk this over with mother and dad, and tell them that you want to hit the Miniwanca trail again this coming summer, and that they should drive up to camp at the close of the camping period to pick you up there before moving on to other adventures which involve the whole family.

### LET US HELP YOU SIGN UP YOUR FRIENDS!!

Old campers (and by that we mean those who have previously attended a session of the Founder Camps) should keep in mind the fact that there is a \$10.00 discount from their camp fee for every new camper enrolled, and who actually attends camp as a result of the old camper's recommendation and personal promotional efforts.

Send in the names and addresses of your prospects and be sure to include the parents' names. We will write a personal letter to every one of these friends and give you every assistance in lining them up for camp.



## THIS IS THE FINEST WAY

to share Camp Miniwanca. We do not widely advertise our camps. Practically all who come to Miniwanca are personally recommended by our old campers and leaders and their parents. That is one of the reasons why we have such a very fine group of fellows in the Younger Boy and Pre-Senior Camps. Swing into action right away with your friends and urge them to make an early reservation before all the places are gone. We positively will not exceed the 125 mark for the 1939 Camps.

### SEVERAL FELLOWS SENT MESSAGES



which didn't arrive in time for our last issue of THE TRAIL. KEN WELLS is singing in an a'capella choir and is secretary of his Hi-Y Club. WALTER O'BRIEN is an agent on his school paper and goes in for outdoor activities in a big way. Movies, photography and piano are the chief hobbies of FRANK PICARD, while sports seem to come first with FRANK SULTZMAN. DICK THOMMEN belongs to the Boy Scouts and Hi-Y, and finds his chief interest in music. DICK FOLK is following up his camp training with a course at church on Christian Leadership. He likes to visit the airport to get new ideas for his model planes. STUART "DUTCH" YNTEMA doesn't leave a single sport out of his busy schedule, but he still finds time for an occasional picture show or party. As for JIM RICHARDS, he holds office as drum major and also as president of the Airplane Club at Junior High. He says that just after he finished a model of "Miss America" with a motor and everything, he held a test flight which ended in a crack-up! Collecting such objects as model boats and postage stamps is the favorite pastime of DICK WEEKES.



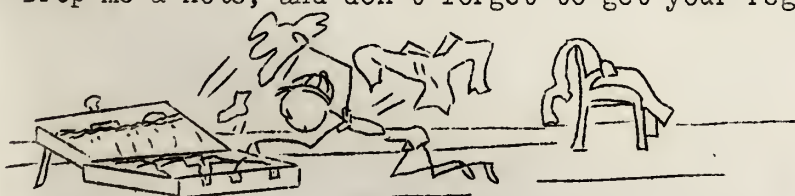
And a great bunch you are, sez I, sez I!!

### WELL, TIME'S UP

and we must all be off to other things. It's nice to anticipate those delightful camping days, but we can't sit here and dream all the time. So keep on doing your dead-level best in the remaining weeks and months of school. Make a real record for yourself down the finish line - one that will make you, as a Founder Fellow, truly proud.

In the meantime, just poke around those old camp togs and begin to line them up and get things in shape for packing your suitcase and duffel bag, or trunk, for camp. Don't forget all of those little things that you want to bring along and which you enjoy in the way of special interests. Bring along that mouth-organ and your musical instruments (pianos excepted!). Start singing some of the good old camp songs and keep your chin up and play the game in a big way. Then you'll come to camp with real zest and enthusiasm, and make this the best summer of your life.

So long, Darers, Doers and Pre-Seniors and Leaders. I'll be seeing you at camp. Drop me a note, and don't forget to get your registration in right away.



—Wad'jipi

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